

WARREN
MAGAZINE



VAMPI
#75
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ATTACK of the ALIEN BLOB!

VAMPIDELLA

WK. 1279



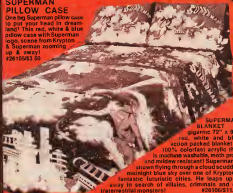
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Krypton's
man
of steel!

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VAMPIRELLA

CONTENTS ISSUE No. 75 JANUARY 1979

4 VAMPI'S SCARLET LETTERS
Complain, complain! Nobody likes VAMPI in Hollywood. Well cheer up fans! VAMPI will soon be winging her way to exotic Hong Kong & a terrific adventure in the inscrutable East!

5 VAMPIRELLA: BLOB BEAST
Our lithesome, luscious heroine a stellar attraction for an interstellar cannibal. Good heavens! It certainly is tough to be an actress, but who wants to play the part of the desert?

17 THE COMIC BOOKS Brancatelli takes a look at the fledgling Comic Book Creators Guild, the selling of Superman, upheavals at Marvel and D.C. and lets us know who is going where in the bubbling world of comics!

19 PETER, PETER Woodcarver par excellence! Peter Marley could capture an image in wood like nobody else. Apparently nobody else could because under his nimble fingers something other than image was created!

30 SASQUATCH LOVE The girls in northern California have sunshine in their hair. Some anthropology students discovered one with a lot of hair! They thought it would be nice to study her habits in her habitat!

39 BUSINESS IS BOOMING To be a captain on the ship of life. To be the master of your fate. To be free, to be useful. These are some of the things that old Doc Jordan would've liked instead of being a hempecked corpse keeper!

49 MATTER OF PRINCIPLE When they dropped the big one everything went to hell! Now you've got to eat and live as you can! No matter what happens it's the self that has to be preserved. That is a matter of principle!

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Vampi's Scarlet Letters

WAS VAMPI STUNK-O-LAY OR DEMONSTRABLY TERRIFIC?

Issue #73 was just about as fabulous and colossal as its sister issue—issue #64. Only one thing was missing that would otherwise make them equals. The missing element was the **Enrich** cover.

Anyhow, issue #73 was still great. **Bill DuBay** did a very beautiful job on "A Gathering of Demons." This novel length extravaganza finally freed **VAMPIRELLA** from the clutches of the dull and cheap Hollywood Tales.

The story really glistened with the return of Conrad, Adam, and Pendragon to the adventure. It was good to see each character play an important role in the formation and resolution of the complex tale. **VAMPI** too, looked quite fantastic now that she's inverted back to being the independent, intelligent, gutsy, and strong **Drakulonne** beauty.

I enjoyed the way **DuBay** had **VAMPI** utilize her power to change into ball-form and use her **Drakulonne** strength and bloodlust as a weapon against the demonic wizards.

Gonzalo Mayo's art was not quite as good as last year's block-busting issue, but it was still good. **Mayo's** illustrations really put the story to its sensational finish. I must say though, overall I prefer his straight-up to his washes. I just think the cross-hatching and shadowing looks more refined and detailed than a wash.

I hope the **VAMPIRELLA** series will continue to exhibit this quality through the next great novel length adventure.

TI CHRISTA
Honolulu, HI.

I just had to write and say how happy my brother and I are with #73. We would like to see more issues with only **VAMPIRELLA** in it. I prefer the more dramatic stories (like "A Gathering of Demons") to whimsical scripts. **VAMPIRELLA** is a unique combination of the supernatural and science fiction, and as such she needs a full issue to explore her character and potentials.

All in all, I would say that "A Gathering of Demons" is one of the best stories ever for both script and art work.

MORTICIA MARGUETTE
Maggie, N.C.

Count Drac was a sucker for women.
The light he was constantly dimmin'.
He was a heart wrecker,
A real big time creeper.
And his pucker was like a persimmon!

—Barrett J. Ackerman

Now you create a Vampire Limerick and be a winner in the second fabulous Almost-Anything-Goes Fan Page Contest! Entries must arrive by December 1st and the best will appear in **VAMPIRELLA** #77... along with fantastic fan art and stories! Author of the Best Limerick wins a **VAMPIRELLA** tee-shirt! Send all submissions to:

THE ALMOST-ANYTHING-GOES FAN PAGE

Warren Publishing
145 East 32nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10016

There used to be a time when I could get **VAMPI** for just \$1.00 and I'd get 4 or 5 stories in each one. Recently I paid \$1.75 for #73 and got just one story. I know the rate of inflation went up, but I think it would be better for me if I collected it. I paid 20¢ more and bought a paperback book.

BRENDA LASH
Chesaning, Mich.

It's been a year since I bought my first issue of **VAMPIRELLA**, and since then I found the issues very well done. The stories are exciting and the covers always catch one's eye!

When I saw the cover of #73 I thought it featured another photo of **Barbara Leigh**, but it turned out to be art work. **Bob Larkin's** rendering of **VAMPI** was fantastic. The full length **VAMPI** story was amazing.

DAVID AVILES
Bronx, N.Y.

With a "Gathering of Demons" in **VAMPIRELLA** #73, **Bill DuBay** came out of recent script doldrums, and with the sugar art of **Gonzalo Mayo** produced another full length epic.

Stories like these make reading **Warren** publications a real pleasure! **Warren** should seriously think of transforming "A Gathering of Demons" into a full length novel.

An interesting story!
NORMAN DAVIDSON
Loring AFB, Ma.

At last! With issue #73 two things happened that were long overdue: a full-length **VAMPI** story and the end (hopefully) of her connection with Hollywood and the movie business.

It wasn't the best full-length **VAMPI** that I've seen; it lacked the pace and depth of characterization of the one in issue #54, for instance. However, it was a welcome change from the short stories of recent issues.

"THE MAD MAPLE"
Toronto, Canada

#73 was magnificent! I loved all 68 pages of it. The art was almost flawless and the story terrific!

Before #73 I had almost stopped buying the magazine because the stories were stunk-o-lay! But with #73 you have just won me back as a customer! If that is, you keep up the good work.

All in all, issue #73 was a step in the right direction. Here's hoping that you keep striding along that path.

W.T. HUSTON
Cincinnati, Oh.

My first issue of **VAMPI** was #71 and I didn't think much of it because there wasn't enough of **VAMPI** in it. Then I bought **VAMPI** #73 and I thought it was great! I think all issues of **VAMPI** should feature her the way #73 did and have only an occasional story about something else.

DEAN GATES
Agency, Mo.

Yeah, I'm satisfied.

More than that **Bill DuBay** and **Gonzalo Mayo** have atoned for that awful "Granny Gearhouse" story. While "A Gathering of Demons" wasn't quite the equal of the **Boudreaux Mayo** book-lengthers of the last two years, it was still superior to what we've been getting lately.

DuBay's plot of "A Gathering of Demons" was somewhat simplistic, lacking the complexities of previous book-length stories. It did have strong characterization, however, especially the relationship (or lack of same) between **VAMPI** and **Conrad Van Helsing**. It's becoming obvious that, no matter how often he's wrong, **Conrad** will always consider **VAMPI** guilty until proven innocent. And, noting the number of times she has fallen off the wagon, who can blame him? (Intervistee footnote: when he finally apologized on page 45, **Vampi** made an oblique observation without actually accepting the apology.)

Now what are you going to do for an answer?

BRIAN CADEN
Cincinnati, Oh.

I have to compliment **Mayo** on perhaps his finest work. I'd been fascinated by his beautiful art since last year's full-length **VAMPI** tale, and lately I've seen his experiments in the **Duranoma**-style world of photographic inserts. Now, he's taken the step into airbrush! I'm sure that, in the past, he's used airbrush on much of his backgrounds, but this is the first time I believe he's done his main subjects with it! Still, I'm glad he didn't use it as such throughout the entire story. This enabled us to see what amounts to a complete scope of **Mayo's** talents! Bravo!

HENRY KUJAWA
Camden, N.J.

What looked like airbrush, **Henry**, was really a combination of line, charcoal, and ink.

Vampi's
Scarlet Letters
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ANOTHER LONG, HARD WORKDAY COMES TO A CLOSE IN THE SUNNY BUT MORALLY GLOOMY CLIMATE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. AND WITH IT, AT LEAST TWO WEARY THESPIANS CELEBRATE THE COMPLETION OF THEIR LATEST MOTION PICTURE...

"THE BEAUTY AND BEHEMOUTH" IS AT LONG LAST IN THE CAN!

OH, PEN...DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?

IT MEANS, VAMP, MY LOVE, THAT AFTER FAR TOO MANY INTERRUPTIONS YOU'VE FINALLY FINISHED YOUR FIRST STARRING VEHICLE!

THIS ONE PICTURE IS GOING TO LAUNCH YOU ON A METEORIC CAREER!

IT ALSO MEANS, MR LUMET, THAT PEN AND I CAN TAKE A MUCH-NEEDED VACATION...AWAY FROM THE HUSTLE, BUSTLE AND MADNESS OF HOLLYWOOD!

ER...YOU'D BEST DELAY ANY THOUGHTS OF A RESPIRE FOR NOW, VAMPE DAWG!

I'VE JUST LANDED YOU A CUSHY PART IN A NEW EPIC ABOUT TO COMMENCE FILMING ACROSS TOWN!

PANTH... YOU DIDN'T!

OH YES I DID! AND WITH THE FEE YOU'LL BE GETTING, I'LL BE ABLE TO BUY A FLEET OF COUPE DEVILLE'S!

CMON...MAKE YOUR OL' FRIEND AND AGENT HAPPY! TAKE THE PART OFFERED BY GORGONZOLA FILMS...

GORGONZOLA? YOU DIDN'T TAKE A JOB WITH HIM DID YOU?

JEALOUS MR LUMET... YOU'VE HAD MY CLIENT FOR THREE WHOLE FILMS! IT'S TIME TO GIVE THE OTHER STUDIOS A BREAK!

BUT I PROMISED ADAM I'D VISIT HIM AS SOON AS WE FINISHED "THE SLIME BEAST..."

I CAN USE MY THIRTY-THREE AND A THIRD PERCENT COMMISSION!



JEALOUSY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT, CHILD! CALL IT MASCULINE NEED TO PROTECT THE IGNORANTLY UNWARY!

EMILE GORGONZOLA EATS GIRLS LIKE KIMPI FOR BREAKFAST!

MY WORD! HE'S A CANNIBAL!



THAT'S ONLY A FIGURE OF SPEECH, PEN! THE FACT IS... GORGONZOLA ONCE HAD A REPUTATION FOR BUILDING STARS!

BUT AFTER ONE OR TWO PICTURES, HIS ILLUMINARIES VANISHED FROM THE PUBLIC EYE! THEY BECAME FADED STARS WHO DISAPPEARED AS QUICKLY AND MYSTERIOUSLY AS THEY WERE THRUST INTO FAME!

NO ONE KNOWS WHAT POWER SHE HOLDS OVER HIM. BUT IN THE FORTY-ODD YEARS THEY'VE BEEN MARRIED, IT'S SAID THAT EMILE HAS CON-TOWED TO HER EVERY DEMAND!

ALAS...WHATEVER HER SEDUCTIVE POWERS, THE WORLD IS RATED NEVER TO KNOW... NO ONE, SAVE EMILE, HAS EVER EVEN SEEN BEATRICE! SINCE HER ARRIVAL IN HOLLYWOOD FOUR DECADES AGO, SHE HAS LIVED A LIFE OF VERITABLE SECLUSION!

DURING THAT TIME, GORGONZOLA FILMS HAS ITSELF ALL BUT FADED FROM THE PUBLIC EYE!

YET, AS MONSTROUS AS EMILE GORGONZOLA IS...I'VE HEARD THAT HIS WIFE IS AN OGRE BEYOND COMPARE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IT'S RUMORED THAT BEATRICE GORGONZOLA IS THE REAL MASTERMIND BEHIND GORGONZOLA FILMS!

EMILE MET HER BACK IN THE THIRTIES, WHEN HE WAS FILMING ONE OF HIS CLASSIC SWAMP EPICS!

AH...BUT AFTER THEIR NEXT EPIC, MR LUMET, GORGONZOLA FILMS WILL BE A HOUSEHOLD WORD!

FOR "THE BLOD BEAST OF BLIGHTER'S BOG" STARS THE ONE AND ONLY KAMPIRELLA OPPOSITE THAT AGED BUT TALENTED LEGEND OF YESTERYEAR...BEATRICE GORGONZOLA...MAKING HER MOTION PICTURE DEBUT!



THE BLOB BEAST OF BLIGHTER'S BOG

VAMPIRELLA

CUT!
CUT!!

LISTEN! THIS IS
A TALE THAT'S NEAR
AND DEAR TO MY BE-
LOVED WIFE'S HEART!

ALRIGHT:
YOU--!
VAMPIR-
ELLA! C'MERE!

IT'S THE FIRST
AND NO DOUBT LAST
MOTION PICTURE THE
DEAR DECEASED OLD
GIRL WILL EVER
MAKE!

SO DO ME A
FAVOR... AND PUT
A LITTLE EMOTION
INTO YOUR ROLE!





WAMP! I DON'T LIKE THIS AT ALL! I'VE GOT A SIXTH SENSE THAT TELLS ME THOSE TWO ARE UP TO NO GOOD!

NONSENSE, PANTH! THEY'RE... WELL... STRANGE... BUT NO STRANGER THAN DOZENS OF OTHERS WE'VE MET HERE IN HOLLYWOOD...! BABY THEDA... FRICK AND FRACK FRECKLES... ORVILLE CRANBERR...!

DUE TO SOME MYSTERIOUS AND UNNAMED ACCIDENT OF NATURE, BEATRICE GORGONZOLA IS JUST A POOR, HELPLESS DEFORMED OLD WOMAN...! AND HER HUSBAND...! WELL... SMILE IS JUST A MEN! PECKED OLD TEDDY BEAR!

I... I DON'T KNOW HOW I KNOW! I JUST DO!

OH, I SHOULD NEVER HAVE GOTTEN YOU INTO THIS!

NO...! THIS IS DIFFERENT, WAMP! THERE'S SOMETHING EVIL... DANGEROUS ABOUT THEM!

IDIOT! IMBECKLE! CRETIN! OAF! HOW DARE YOU TRY TO DEPRIVE ME OF MY SPOILS!

HA! YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DO WITH THOSE SICKENINGLY BEAUTIFUL WENCHES BEFORE YOU SERVE THEIR PURSED REMAINS TO ME?

BUT YOU'LL NOT HAVE THIS ONE.. NOT THIS TIME, MY DEAR 'LOVING' HUSBAND!

IS THIS ONE SO DESIRABLE... SO DIFFERENT FROM THE REST THAT YOU WANT HER ALL FOR YOURSELF?

I CAN TASTE YOU ALL OVER THEM!

VAMPIRELLA WILL BE AN UN-SPOILED EPICURIAN DELIGHT!

AND SHE WILL BE ALL MINE!

THAT NIGHT, THE UNSUSPECTING BUT NO LESS INTELLIGENT VAMPIRELLA IS USHERED INTO THE QUANT YET SPRAWLING DOMICILE OF EMILE AND BEATRICE GORSONZOLA...

COME THIS WAY, DEAR,
DOWN TO THE KITCHEN!

IT'S WHERE
EMILE PREPARES
ALL MY MEALS!

MY CHILD! I CAN'T
TELL YOU HOW DELIGHTED
I AM TO BE HAVING
YOU FOR DINNER!

YOU LOOK
SIMPLY
SCUMPTIOUS!

EMILE?

OH YES... HIS CULINARY
EXPERTISE IS WITHOUT
EQUAL IN ALL THE WORLD...!
IT'S SIMPLY ONE OF HIS
MULTIPLICITY OF TALENTS!

ISN'T IT,
EMILE?

Y-Y-YES
DEAR...

FOOL!
SIMPLETON!
BLOCKHEAD! DOLT!
HOW COULD YOU
HAVE MISSED?

WHAT'S
GOING ON
HERE?

CHOP

WHAT'S GOING ON?
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S
GOING ON, MY PRIME
FILET OF FLESH...

BUT BECAUSE YOU'VE
SO BEGUILLED MY BUMBLING
HUSBAND... I WILL HAVE TO
PREPARE YOU FOR THE
FEAST MYSELF...

YOU ARE BEING
SERVED AS TONIGHT'S
DESSERT!

B-BEATRICE... NO
YOU... YOU... CAN'T!



YOU SEE, MY DEAR...
CONTRARY TO WHAT MANY
MAY BELIEVE... I AM NOT
YOUR RUN-OF-THE-MILL
PRODUCER'S WIFE...!

YEARS AGO... I
CAME FROM ANOTHER
PLANET AND WAS TRAPPED
ON THIS ABOMINABLE WORLD
WHEN A TREACHEROUS
SOUTHERN BOG SWALLOWED
MY DISABLED SHIP.




"IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER,
REALLY, TO CLOUD HIS
FEEBLE YOUNG MIND... JUST
AS I AM NOW CLOUDING
YOURS, VAMPIRELLA!"

"I MADE HIM DO HORRIBLE, DESPICABLE
THINGS... IN ORDER THAT I MIGHT SURVIVE!"


"FOR YEARS... DECADES...
CLOSE TO HALF A CEN-
TURY, AS WE GREW OLD
TOGETHER, EMILE HAS
PREPARED ME THE SAME
STEAMING AROMATIC
REBASTS..."

"UNTIL NOW... NOW WHEN
I AM OLD... OLD AND TOO
FEEBLE TO MAINTAIN MY
HYPNOTIC CONTROL... AND
I AM VULNERABLE
ENOUGH TO LOSE MY EMILE
TO THE HYPNOTIC WILES
OF AN ENCHANTRESS LIKE
YOURSELF..."



"EMILE... MY DEAR, SWEET, IGNORANT EMILE,
FOUND ME THERE... IN THE SWAMP... HALF
OUT OF MY MIND FROM HUNGER, LONELINESS
AND PAIN!"

YES, YES... I MADE HIM PREPARE MY FAVORITE
SACRILEGIOUS DISHES, PROVIDED BY SOME OF THE MOST
SELECTABLE INDIVIDUALS THIS EXECRABLE WORLD
HAD TO OFFER..."



YES, VAMPIRELLA...! I KNOW!
I CAN SENSE FROM THE WAY YOU
RESIST, YOU ARE NOT OF THIS WORLD,
EITHER, YOUR WILL IS STRONG, MY
DEAR! BUT NOT STRONG ENOUGH!



AH... BUT IT DOESN'T
HAVE TO BE, MY AGED
FRIEND FROM THE STARS!
FOR I HAVE OTHER
POWERS! POWERS YOU
DON'T EVEN SUSPECT!



AND THERE...
BEHIND YOU, IS ONE
OF MY GREATEST
FEATS YET!

GROWL

NO! NOOO!
IMPOSSIBLE!



NO ONE PERSON
CAN BE SO
POWERFUL!

NO? YOU
HAVE A MORE
RATIONAL
EXPLANATION,
MADAME?



PERHAPS MY NEXT
DEMONSTRATION WILL
IMPRESS YOU EVEN
MORE!

NO! NOOO!
YOU... YOU'RE
NOT HUMAN!



QUITE RIGHT,
MY DEAR! BUT
THEN... NEITHER
ARE YOU!



SO I GUESS
THAT MAKES US...

...EVEN!

AGHLLLLL



AND THAT'S
IT? THE WHOLE
BLESSED STORY...?

THAT'S IT,
PEN!



AFTER WHICH WE
NOTIFIED THE AUTHORITIES
AND THEY PUT BEATRICE
GORGONZOLA WHERE SHE'LL
BE ON A STRICT DIET OF
BREAD, WATER AND BRUEL!

WHILE EMILE... POOR
VICTIMIZED EMILE... IS
DESTINED FOR A LONG
STAY AT THE BANANA-
HOUSE OF HIS CHOICE!

WELL...! WE
DIDN'T EXACTLY
TELL THEM THAT,
PEN!

PANTHA'S KEEN SENSE
OF SMELL DETECTED A FOUL
ODOR EMANATING FROM THE
CELLAR! THERE WE DISCOVERED
FORTY YEARS WORTH OF
HUMAN BONES... ALL
PICKED CLEAN!



AND ONCE THE
POLICE SAW THAT...!
WELL, NOT TOO MUCH
MORE NEEDED TO
BE SAID!



BECAUSE HER FELINE
SENSES WARNED OF DANGER,
PANTHA CAME WITH ME TO
THE GORGONZOLA MANSE!

SHE WAITED OUTSIDE
AND OVERHEARD ALL OF
MADAME GORGONZOLA'S
PITIFUL TALE BEFORE SHE
EMERGED TO HOLD EMILE
AT BAY WHILE I RENDERED
OUR ASSED ALIEN SENSE-
LESS!



THE POLICE DIDN'T
EVEN QUESTION IT WHEN
YOU EXPLAINED THAT THE
MADAME OF THE HOUSE
WAS FROM ANOTHER
GALAXY?



I MUST SAY...
MADAME GORGONZOLA
WAS A WOMAN OF VERY
UNUSUAL TASTES!

OH, I DON'T KNOW,
PEN! I WAS ONE OF HER
VICTIMS, WASN'T I? I'D
SAY THE DEAR OLD THING
HAD RATHER EXCELLENT
TASTE!

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

NEW! NEW! NEW!



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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS A STAR WARS Spectacular music of these two fantastic movies is brought to you by Zubin Mehta and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. The Williams score from Star Wars includes Leia's theme and the themes of the Little People, Cantina, Battle and the Stormtrooper. Also included is the *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* bath tub scene on the big record, not supply of which will go quickly! #J2334/\$7.50



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THE BEGINNING OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY IS A TIME OF SAILING SHIPS. THE WAR OF 1812 HAS ENDED AND WITH IT A WAY OF LIFE FOR MANY IN THE RAVAGED UNITED STATES. THE COAST HAS BEEN SCOURGED OF SHIPS BY THE BRITISH. AMERICA'S LIFELINES HAVE BEEN CRIPPLED. REBUILD! REBUILD! FASTER! CHEAPER! THE SEEDS OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION ARE BEING SOWN. CRAFTSMEN WHO MADE THEIR MARKS IN SIMPLER TIMES ARE BEING LEFT BEHIND. PETER MARLEY IS SUCH A MAN.

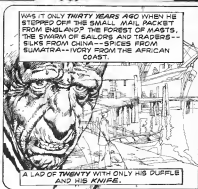
PETER, PETER



IT WAS A FINE DAY FOR A FUNERAL -- AND YET, SO FEW HAD COME TO SEE CONSTANCE OFF. THEY WERE ALL DOWN THERE, PLANNING AND SCHEMING TO REBUILD THEIR PRECIOUS TRADE WITH THE EAST.

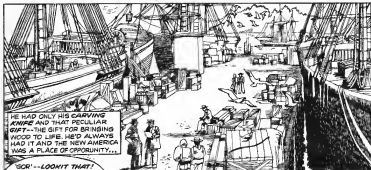


MARLEY'S CONSTANCE COULD NOT FEEL THE AUTUMNAL WINDS WHICH PLUCKED AT HIS CLOTHES AND WHINED AMIDST THE SILENT MARKERS. BUT HE COULD. HE COULD BOTH FEEL--AND REMEMBER.



WAS IT ONLY THIRTY YEARS AGO WHEN HE STEPPED OFF THE SMALL MAIL PACKET FROM ENGLAND TO THE FOREST OF MASTS. THE SWARM OF SAILORS AND TRADERS-- SILKS FROM CHINA--SPICES FROM SUMATRA--IVORY FROM THE AFRICAN COAST.

A LAD OF TWENTY WITH ONLY HIS DUFFLE AND HIS KNIFE.



HE HAD ONLY HIS CARVING KNIFE AND THAT PECULIAR GIFT--THE GIFT FOR BRINGING WOOD TO LIFE. HE'D ALWAYS HAD IT AND THE NEW AMERICA WAS A PLACE OF OPPORTUNITY...

'GOR'--LOOKIT THAT! SEEN SOMETHING O' THE SAME KIND ME LAST TIME TIME ASHORE... AFTER A NIGHT AT THE SPIKE AN' BOTTLE!



OW'S 'E DO IT SO QUICK LIKE?

MARLEY COULD NEVER EXPLAIN HIS FASCINATION FOR THE WEIRD CREATURES HE CARVED. SOME WERE COPIED FROM OLD DRAWINGS. OTHERS WERE PRODUCTS OF SOMETHING INSIDE HIM.



HE ONLY KNEW THE WOOD LIVED IN HIS HANDS.

IT WAS OLD BECKETT, THE SHIP CHANDLER, WHO FIRST APPRECIATED MARLEY'S WORK FOR WHAT IT WAS... OR WHAT HE THOUGHT IT WAS...



SUPERB CRAFTSMANSHIP-- A GIFT, NOT TO BE SQUANDERED WHEN THERE IS MONEY TO BE MADE.



COME ALONG WITH ME, LAD. DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME WITH THESE LAY-ABOUTS. I'VE A PLACE FOR YE THAT'LL DO US BOTH SOME GOOD.



THIS IS MY CHANDLERY, MR. MARLEY. IT WILL BE YOUR NEW HOME. I OUTFIT AND SUPPLY THOSE SHIPS YOU SEE OUTSIDE.

THERE'S FINE WOOD HERE AN' SHARP TOOLS. TURN ME OUT A FIGURE HEAD FIT FOR A RICH MERCHANT.



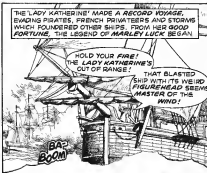
MARLEY SET TO WORK WITH DRAWNIFE, CHISEL AND FINE BLADE, AND SOON THE SHOP WAS FILLED WITH BIZARRE IMAGES.

THE DESIGN MAY BE A BIT UNUSUAL, ER-- BUT LOOK AT THE SKILL AND LIFE IN IT!



WHAT'D I TELL YE, MR. PETTIGREW? THE 'LADY KATHERINE' WILL BE KNOWN THE WORLD AROUND BY THAT HEAD!

AYE--A TERRIBLE AND HANDSOME PIECE OF WORK. I'VE ANOTHER HULK BEIN' LAD IN THE YARD. SEND YOUNG MARLEY AROUND T'SEE ME.

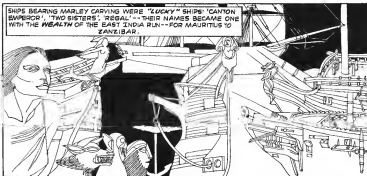


THE 'LADY KATHERINE' MADE A RECORD VOYAGE, ELUDING PIRATES, FRENCH PRIVATEERS AND STORMS WHICH FOUNDERED OTHER SHIPS. FROM HER GOOD FORTUNE, THE LEGEND OF MARLEY LUCK BEGAN.

HOLD YOUR FIRE! THE 'LADY KATHERINE'S' OUT OF RANGE!

THAT BLASTED SHIP WITH ITS WEIRD FIGUREHEAD SEEMS MASTER OF THE WIND!

BA-BOOM



SHIPS BEARING MARLEY CARVING WERE "LUCKY" SHIPS: 'CANTON EMPEROR', 'TWO SISTERS', 'REGAL'--THEIR NAMES BECAME ONE WITH THE WEALTH OF THE EAST INDIA RUN--FOR MAURITIUS TO ZANZIBAR.

MARLEY'S FAME AND FORTUNE INCREASED AND WITH IT CAME HIS OWN SHOP AND THE HAND OF CONSTANCE BECKETT, THE RETIRED CHANDLER'S NIECE.

BUT THE YOUNG LOVERS' EXISTENCE WAS NOT ENTIRELY UNSHADOWED...



IT SORROWS ME, MY DARLING, THAT I CAN BEAR YOU NO HEIRS. I CAN ONLY OFFER YOU MY HEART AND ALL THAT GOES WITH IT.

YOU BRING ME PLEASURE, WIFE. I ONLY WISH TO LOVE YOU AND MAKE YOU HAPPY.

THEN MAKE ME HAPPY NOW, MY LOVE!



AS HIS BUSINESS GREW AND GOOD FORTUNE FOLLOWED HIS CARVING, MARLEY AMASSED A HUGE, UNWORLDLY BEASTIARY--DRAWINGS FROM THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE KNOWN--AND UNKNOWN GLOBE...

IF THE MERCHANTS FELT ANY MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE INCREDIBLY STRANGE WOODWORK THAT ADORNED THEIR VESSELS, THEY HELD THEIR TONGUES AND FOLLOWED THE PROFITS.



THIS DRAWING'S OF AZON--PERSIAN GOD OF SPEED THEY CALLS 'IM. BLOODY LOOKIN' BUGGER, AIN' 'E?

BEAUTIFUL--TRULY BEAUTIFUL--!



THREE OF THE MOST PROMINENT TRADERS USED HIS CRAFT EXCLUSIVELY:



OLD JASON PETTIGREW, OWNER OF THREE VESSELS INCLUDING THE 'LADY KATH-ERINE' AND THE FAMOUS 'REGAL'...

...GAUNT ELMUS STONE, FORMER RUTHLESS SHIP-MASTER TURNED BANKER AND SPECULATOR...

...AND THE ROTUND THADDEUS ORR, A THROWBACK TO THE VOLUPTUARIES OF THE ROMAN EPOCH. HE HAD HIS WOMEN, HIS GOLD AND HIS SHIPS.

THEN THE DOGS OF WAR WERE UNLEASHED AND THE BRITISH SQUADRONS LOOSED THEIR BROADSIDES INTO THE MERCHANT FLEET, THE AMERICAN LIFELINE OF 1812.

SHIPS NOT SUNK WERE TAKEN AS PRIZES. CREWS WERE PRESSED INTO SERVITUDE AND ABOARD ENGLISH SHIPS, THE AMERICAN SEACOAST WAS RAZED AND BLOCKADED.



SOME MERCHANTS, INCLUDING JASON PETTIGREW SENT THEIR SHIPS TO SEA WITH ORDERS TO SELL THE CARGO AND THE SHIPS AT THE NEXT PORT AND BUY SMALLER, AND FASTER BLOCKADE RUNNERS. AND SO THE 'LADY KATHERINE', WITH HER STRANGE AND WONDERFUL FIGURE-HEAD, WAS SOLD TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.

THESE LEAN, STRIPPED BLOCKADE RUNNERS WERE NO-NONSENSE COMMERCE CARRIERS, ABLE TO OUT-RUN THE HEAVIER, BRITISH MAN-OF-WARS...

...CREWED BY WELL-ARMED, WELL DISCIPLINED MERCHANTMEN WHO GAVE UP ALL FRILLS FOR AN EXTRA DECK OF GUNS TO DEFEND THE CARGO BELOW.



SHIP AFTER SHIP BEARING MARLEY'S HANDWORK FAILED TO RETURN AS THEIR MERCHANT OWNERS LOST HEART AND SOLD THE VESSELS IN FOREIGN PORTS.

FOR TWO YEARS, THE WAR DRAGGED ON AND PETER MARLEY'S BUSINESS SLIPPED AWAY. COMMISSIONS ALREADY STARTED WERE WITHDRAWN. DEBTS BEGAN TO ACCUMULATE.



...AND CONSTANCE FELL ILL WITH INFLUENZA.



MARLEY, DISHEVELED AND TIRED--OLD BRYON HIS YEARS--VISITED THE PRACTICAL PETTIGREW'S ESSEX STREET MANSION HOPING FOR WORK, A LOAN, ANYTHING TO STEM HIS GROWING DESPAIR.

TERRIBLY SORRY, OLD CHAP, BUT THE WAR CHANGED THINGS

LIGHT, FAST SHIPS--NO FRILLS, BIG HOLDS, SMALL CREWS--THAT'S THE TICKET TODAY. PROFITS AREN'T WHAT THEY USED T'BE. I CAN'T SPARE A FARTHING.

BANKER ELIAS STONE SNEERED DISDAINFULLY...

CREDIT'S HARD T'COME BY, MARLEY. SHIPPING TRADE'S MOVED T' BOSTON. SORRY, I'M A BUSY MAN...

...WHILE THE BLOATED THADDEUS ORM, SMILING HIS SPIDER'S SMILE, RETORTED...

IF YOU ASK ME, WOOD CARVER, WE'RE BEST RID OF YOU AND THAT FILTHY BUSINESS OF YOURS.

UGH, THOSE DREADFUL BEASTIES YOU CONJURED UP TURNED MY TENDER STOMACH. MERCY, IF THEY HADN'T HELPED TURN A ROUND OR TWO, I'D HAVE HAD YOU BURNED YEARS AGO.

YOU TOAD!

IT TOOK TWO BURLY SERVANTS TO DRAG MARLEY'S HANDS FROM AROUND ORM'S HATED NECK!

YOU'VE GOTTEN FAT OFF ME! YOUR SHIPS ALWAYS RETURNED WITH PROFIT! I NEED HELP! MY WIFE... CHOKED...

THROW HIM OUT! WHIP HIM AND THROW HIM OUT!

PETER MARLEY'S FORTUNES HAD SUNK INTO THE PIT HE OWED DEBTS, WAS PENNILESS AND HIS WIFE WAS ILL.

HE'D REACHED ROCK BOTTOM --OR SO HE THOUGHT.

CONSTANCE WAS GONE, DEAD FROM NEGLECT, FROM TRYING TO MAKE ENDS MEET. AN OUNCE OF PITY WOULD HAVE SPARED HER. NOW, THERE WAS ROOM FOR ONLY ONE EMOTION...

REVENGE!

MAD WITH RAGE, MARLEY RAN BLINDLY DOWN SALEM'S NARROW STREETS TOWARD HIS DERBY STREET SHOP.

THERE HE GATHERED ARMFULS OF THE PRECIOUS DRAWINGS AND DASHED THEM INTO THE FIRE WHERE THE FLAMES CONSUMED THEM!

BURN, DAMN YOU! BURN! FOUL BEASTS! TORMENTED SOULS!

THEN FROM OUTSIDE CAME THE DREADED CRY...

FIRE! FIRE!
ON THE WHARF! THE
OLD LADY KATHERINE
FROM CANTON IS
ASLAZE!

THE LADY KATHERINE, FORMERLY OF THE PETTISREW LINE HAD SAILED AWAY UNDER HER NEW MASTER LAST WEEK. THE MOVIENT MARLEY HAD PLUNGED THE DRAWINGS INTO THE FIRE--THE OLD SHIP WENT UP IN FLAMES. WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO THE OTHER SHIPS, HE WONDERED?

BUT IN HIS HEART HE KNEW...

...HE KNEW...

AND NOW, AS HE KNELT BEFORE HIS WIFE'S GRAVE, MARLEY KNEW THE TIME HAD COME...



AND WHAT BETTER TIME THAN ALL HALLOWS EVE, WHEN SPIRITS OF LONG DEAD WITCHES AND GOBLINS ROAMED SALEM'S STREETS FOR TRICKS...

...AND TREATS

GIVE THIS TO THADDEUS ORM, WITH MY COMPLIMENTS.



HIS PORTRAIT... CARVED FROM A PUMPKIN!

MY WORD, THAT OLD DEGENERATE HAS FINALLY FOUND A GOOD USE FOR THAT KNIFE OF HIS EXCELLENT LIKENESS. PUT A CANDLE INTO IT AND PLACE IT IN THE WINDOW.



KNOCK KNOCK

STONE BANKERS

WALL STREET
NEW YORK

IT'S PETER MARLEY, SIR. I HAVE AN ALL-HALLOWS EVE PRESENT FOR YOU, MR. STONE...

A SMALL TOKEN OF MY ESTEEM!



GREETINGS, PETTIGREW! A GIFT TO LIGHT YOUR EVE!



GIVE IT TO ME, MARLEY! A LIKENESS! PERFECT LIKENESS!

LIGHT THE CANDLE, DAUGHTER! LIGHT THE CANDLE!



NEEDLESS TO SAY PETER MARLEY DIDN'T WAIT AROUND TO SEE HIS LATEST WORKS OF ART DISPLAYED.





THE NEXT DAY WAS A FINE, SALEM MORNING AS THE GOOD CITIZENS SET OUT TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EVIL WITCH IN THEIR MIDST SOMETHING THEY HADN'T BOTHERED WITH WHEN HE WAS SUSPECTED OF BEING A GOOD, PROFITABLE WITCH.



THEY CRASHED IN THE DOOR AND WINDOW OF MARLEY'S SHOP, SHOUTING...

KILL HIM!
BURN THE
WITCH!



AND THEN THEY SAW THE PUMPKIN, A PORTRAIT OF...



...HIMSELF...



AND SO, THE MERCHANTS AND TRADERS OF OLD SALEM TOWN WENT HOME FOR ANOTHER FINE DAY OF YANKEE PROFIT MAKING, PLYING THE SEVEN SEAS AS ALWAYS. ONLY ONE THING WOULD BE DIFFERENT. TILL THEY WENT TO THEIR GRAVES, THEY'D NEVER FORGET THAT MALLOWE'EN NIGHT- AND THE LAUGHING, EXPLODING HEAD OF WOOD CARVER, PETER MARLEY.



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SASQUATCH! LOVE

TOMORROW IS
THE BIG DAY! THE
THREE OF US HAVE
TALKED IT OVER AGAIN...
AND WE STILL AGREE THAT
NONE OF OUR PROFESSORS
WOULD APPROVE!

IT'S PROBABLY JUST
AS WELL--THE FEWER
PEOPLE IN ON THIS
THE BETTER!

WE'VE AGREED THE
CODE-NAME FOR THE
FORMULA SHALL BE
LOVE POTION #9!



IT'S SO POWERFUL
WE'RE ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED
MARTHA WON'T BE PHYSICALLY
ABLE TO RESIST TEDDY THE
NEXT TIME SHE SEES HIM!



THERE'S NO DENYING
WE'VE ALL GROWN VERY
FOND OF MARTHA OVER
THE PAST FEW WEEKS--
BUT WITH TEDDY SHE'S
BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED
OBSESSION!



SOMETIMES WE
WONDER HOW FAR
HE'D BE WILLING
TO--

EEKKKK!



"WE HAD BEEN CONDUCTING REGULAR EXPEDITIONS TO A CERTAIN SECTION OF THE FORESTS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA -- WHERE WE HAD MANAGED TO MAP OUT AN ISOLATED SQUARE-MILE PATCH DEEP IN THE WILDERNESS..."

"...FOR THIS WAS THE AREA WHERE WE FIRST MADE CONTACT WITH MARTHA SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE-- MORE BY ACCIDENT THAN DESIGN!"

MIKE--MIKE!
COME OUT HERE...
QUICK! YOU WON'T
BELIEVE WHAT'S
STARING ME IN
THE FACE!

MARV: THIS
BETTER BE GOOD,
SUSAN! I WAS RIGHT
IN THE MIDDLE OF
A GOOD--

G-GOOD
GOOD GOD!

I-I DON'T
BELIEVE IT! A
REAL BIGFOOT
CREATURE!

I THINK IT'S
A FEMALE!

I WAS JUST
SITTING HERE, BRUSHING
MY HAIR--WHEN I LOOKED
UP AND THERE SHE
WAS!

SHE DOESN'T
SEEM TO WANT
TO HURT US!

WHY DO YOU
THINK SHE'S HOLDING
THAT LEAFY TWIG
IN HER HAND?

SUSAN--I HAVE
A THEORY! DON'T ASK
QUESTIONS--JUST START
BRUSHING YOUR
HAIR!



"SEE? SHE SAID
YOU BRUSHING YOUR HAIR
--THEN PICKED UP THE
TWIG SO SHE COULD
DO THE SAME!"

"YOU'RE RIGHT,
SHE'S TRYING TO
IMITATE ME!"



"MIKE AND I SOON DISCOVERED
THAT MARTHA APPARENTLY
LIKED HUMANS! ALTHOUGH SHE
WOULDN'T ALLOW US TO
APPROACH--HER FAVORITE
PASTIME SEEMED TO BE
OBSERVING US FROM A SAFE
DISTANCE!"

"THE NEXT TIME WE WENT OUT TO
HER FOREST WE BROUGHT
MIKE'S BEST FRIEND ALONG--
AND MARTHA LAID EYES ON
TEDDY FOR THE FIRST TIME!"



"BACK AT THE LAB, TEDDY AND I
SPENT WEEKS HELPING MIKE
COMPLETE HIS EXPERIMENTS
WITH SYNTHETIC *SEXUAL
SCENTS*--UNTIL WE HAD A
MIXTURE *GUARANTEED* TO
AROUSE A HEALTHY *FEMALE
SASQUATCH!*"



"HUNDREDS OF HOURS OF WORK
AND PREPARATION--AND IT
WAS ALL LEADING UP TO THIS
CLIMACTIC MOMENT!"

"YOU'RE SURE THE
ZIPPERS DON'T SHOW?
NO TRACE OF THE
MINIATURE HIDDEN
CAMERAS?"

"RELAX,
NOTHING
SHOWS!"

"BY THE TIME
YOU GET THIS CLOSE
TO MARTHA SHE'LL
BE TOO TURNED-
ON TO NOTICE
DETAILS!"



"PUT ON YOUR MASK,
SUSAN! ONCE I START
SPRAYING OUR STUD HERE
WITH *LOVE POTION #9* THE
AIR'S GOING TO GET REALLY
THICK!"

"I GUESS I'M
AS READY AS
I'LL EVER BE!"



"MIKE LET LOOSE WITH THE
FORMULA--AND IN THE SPACE
OF A FEW SECONDS, TEDDY BE-
CAME THE MOST *IRRESISTIBLE
SASQUATCH* ON THE FACE OF
THE EARTH!"

"NOW YOU'RE
ON YOUR OWN,
OLD BUDDY!"

"WE'LL
CONSTANTLY
BE CLOSE
BY!"

"TEDDY BRAVELY BEGAN HIS TREK INTO THE WILDERNESS, WHILE WE FOLLOWED AT A SAFE DISTANCE OF 30 YARDS! WE KNEW IT WOULD ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE SCENT TRAVELLED THROUGH THE TREES AND REACHED YOU-KNOW-WHO!"

"WHAT WE DIDN'T KNOW WAS HOW QUICKLY WE WOULD BE SEEING RESULTS!"

ULLPPP!

"AT CLOSE QUARTERS WE KNEW NO BIGFOOT COSTUME WOULD FOOL MARTHA! WHEN SHE PICKED TEDDY UP LIKE HE WEIGHED NO MORE THAN A STUFFED ANIMAL, IT LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS ANGRY ENOUGH TO KILL!"

"THERE'S NO WAY TO DESCRIBE THE INCREDIBLE CHANGE THAT CAME OVER HER EXPRESSION -- BUT THE MEANING WAS UNMISTAKABLY CLEAR..."

"MARTHA HAD JUST FALLEN IN LOVE!"

"THE OVERPOWERING SYNTHETIC SCENT HAD DONE ITS JOB SPLENDIDLY! AS FAR AS MARTHA WAS CONCERNED, SHE HAD MET THE BIG-FOOT OF HER WILDEST DREAMS!"

"WE FOLLOWED THEM FOR SEVERAL MILES... TO A RAISED PLATEAU THAT BORDERS THE EDGE OF A RUNNING BROOK..."

LOOK AT THAT-- IT'S EASY TO SEE WHO THE DOMINATING MEMBER OF THIS COUPLE IS!

"BUT THEN SHE BEGAN TO SNIFF... AND SNIFF SOME MORE!"

DOESN'T MATTER! I FIGURE TEDDY'S ALREADY SHAPPED DOZENS OF CLOSE-UPS WITH HIS HIDDEN CAMERAS!

"WE HAD SET UP AN OBSERVATION POST ACROSS THE STREAM ON THE OPPOSITE BANK! SINCE MARTHA KNEW US SHE DIDN'T MIND THE AUDIENCE..."

"WAIT! OUR PROFESSORS GET A LOOK AT ALL OUR DATA! THESE PHOTOGRAPHS WILL MAKE THE THREE OF US WORLD-FAMOUS!"



THERE WAS NO TELLING HOW LONG THE MOUNTAIN LION HAD BEEN HIDDEN BEHIND THE PLATEAU WAITING TO STRIKE...



BUT WHAT SURPRISED US MOST WAS THE INCREDIBLE *SPEED* MARTHA MUSTERED TO PROTECT HER NEW BOYFRIEND...



"SPEED SURPASSED ONLY BY THE IMMENSE STRENGTH WITH WHICH SHE SNAPPED THE HUGE CAT'S JAWS WIDE OPEN..."



"FOR THE MOMENT, ALL DANGER SEEMED TO HAVE PASSED! MARTHA AFFECTIONATELY STROKED WHAT MUST'VE BEEN A VERY RELIEVED TEDDY..."

"AND YET, AS WE WATCHED THE TWO OF THEM, A VAGUE FEELING OF *UNEASINESS* BEGAN SNAWING AT ME!"



"I DON'T LIKE THE WAY SHE'S LOOKING AT HIM, MIKE!"

"RELAX! YOU KNOW THE PLAN--AS SOON AS MARTHA FALLS ASLEEP, TEDDY SLIPS AWAY AND THE THREE OF US GO BACK TO CIVILIZATION!"



"I HAD AGREED TO TAKE THE FIRST WATCH AND ALL WAS CALM FOR SEVERAL HOURS! BUT SOON I WAS HORRIFIED BY WHAT I SAW..."



"...HORRIFIED AND REPULSED!"

"I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING BUT WATCH -- WATCH THE MOST VILE, DISGUSTING ACT OF ANIMAL LUST ANYONE COULD EVER IMAGINE!"



"IN BETWEEN MARTHA'S DEEP REVERBERATING MOANS OF PASSION WE KEPT HEARING THE TORTUROUS SOUND OF HUMAN SCREAMS!"



"THERE WAS NO WAY FOR MIKE AND I TO INTERVENE WITHOUT RISKING MARTHA'S ANGER! ALL WE COULD DO WAS LISTEN AND CRINGE!"

"BY DAWN MIKE AND I HAD COME UP WITH A PLAN! I REMAINED ON THE BANK TO STAND WATCH WHILE MIKE HIKEED BACK TO OUR CAMPER!"



"WHEN HE RETURNED...HE WAS WEARING THE ONE EXTRA PIECE OF EQUIPMENT THAT COULD SAVE TEDDY..."

"--IF WE WERE LUCKY--AND IF WE COULD GET MARTHA INTERESTED!"

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE FIT?

I THINK THE SPARE COSTUME EVEN LOOKS BETTER THAN THE ONE TEDDY'S WEARING!



NOW LET'S HOPE WE CAN GET MARTHA TO NOTICE US!

"OUR IDEA WAS SIMPLE: UTILIZING MARTHA'S LOVE OF MIMICRY, WE WERE HOPING SHE WOULD BEGIN TO IMITATE WHAT I WAS DOING! AFTER SEVERAL UNEVENTFUL TRIES, WE BEGAN TO SEE RESULTS!"

IT'S WORKING, MIKE! SHE'S PATTING TEDDY ON THE HEAD JUST LIKE I'M PATTING YOU!

SHE THINKS IT'S A GAME! DON'T STOP NOW!



"THE PLAN WAS PROCEEDING PERFECTLY! I PULLED MIKE TO HIS FEET--**MARTHA** PULLED TEDDY TO HIS FEET! I BEGAN PUSHING MIKE TOWARD THE EDGE OF THE BANK--SHE BEGAN PUSHING TEDDY TOWARD THE OTHER EDGE..."

GET READY, SUSAN! WHEN I SAY GO--SHOVE ME INTO THE WATER! HOPEFULLY **MARTHA** WILL DO THE SAME!

"IF **MARTHA** WOULD ONLY KEEP PLAYING THE GAME--AND SHOVE TEDDY OVER THE EDGE--MIKE WOULD DISCARD HIS SASQUATCH COSTUME IN THE WATER AND PULL TEDDY SAFELY TO SHORE!"

"IF ONLY **MARTHA** WOULD KEEP PLAYING THE GAME!"

"BUT MIKE COULDN'T FORGET IT--NOT AFTER THE BEE MADE THE UNFORTUNATE MISTAKE OF FLYING INTO THE EYE-SLIT OF HIS SASQUATCH MASK!"

A'EEEE!

IT'S STUCK, SUSAN! HELP ME PULL IT OFF! THIS THING KEEPS STINGING ME!

HOLD STILL, SO I CAN GET A GRIP ON YOU!

"I GRABBED THE HEAD-MASK AS TIGHTLY AS I COULD! I PULLED--PULLED UNTIL I WAS SEEING PURPLE!"

IT'S STUCK!

OWW! THE ZIPPER MUST BE SNAGGED! PULL HARDER! OWWW! OWWWW!

WHAT'S WRONG NOW?

DAMN!

IT'S JUST A BEE! FORGET IT! DON'T BOTHER IT AND IT WON'T BOTHER YOU!



YOU CAN FIND IT ANYWHERE. THE SMALL TOWN MORGUE ATTACHED TO THE POLICE STATION. BUT THIS MORGUE IS A LITTLE CLEANER THAN MOST. A LITTLE COLDER. AND AS FAR AS DOCTOR LEWIS JORDAN WAS CONCERNED, THE SADIEST OF THEM ALL...

Business is Booming



6 NIGHT, DOC...
DON'T BURN TOO MUCH
OF THE MIDNIGHT
OIL. WILL YOU DON'T
WORK TOO LATE?

OH, NO. OF
COURSE NOT,
BILL...

WORK LATE? THE CHANCE
WOULD BE WELCOME. IT'S
BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE THERE
WAS ANY WORK TO DO HERE...

ALL MY TOOLS,
MY BEAUTIFUL
KNIVES, SHARP
AND JUST WAIT-
ING FOR WORK,
FOR RESEARCH.

AND ALL I
GET TO WORK
ON ARE THE OLD
AND WITHERED.
NO ONE YOUNG...
NO ONE IN THEIR
PRIME!

SIGH...IT'S A
SAD STATE OF
AFFAIRS, INDEED,
WHEN NO ONE'S
DYING ANY
MORE.

NOT ONE SUSPIC-
IOUS DEATH IN
TWO YEARS! EVEN
THE OLD AND SICK
SEEM TO BE
HANGING ON
LONGER
THESE DAYS.



THE THOUGHT STAYED WITH HIM ALL THE WAY HOME THROUGH THE DARK, RAIN-WASHED STREETS. IT WASN'T THAT HE WISHED ANYONE HARM, HE JUST SO WANTED TO BE HAPPY IN HIS WORK...



OF COURSE THERE WAS NO ONE HE'D SERIOUSLY WANT TO SEE DEAD!



SO MUCH FOR MARRIED LIFE...

MARTHA AND HER DAMNED ORGANIZATION! SHE'S ALWAYS FORMING COMMITTEES, ALWAYS SHOWING PEOPLE AROUND! ESPECIALLY ME!

WELL...ALMOST NO ONE...



I'M HOME MARTHA DEAR...

SO I SEE! AND WHAT KIND OF TIME DO YOU CALL THIS? I TOLD YOU TO BE HOME EARLY TONIGHT, DIDN'T I?

SIX AT THE LATEST, WE AGREED!

YOU KNOW VERY WELL IT'S MY NIGHT FOR THE WOMAN'S SOCIETY MEETING, AND I'M LATE ALREADY YOUR DINNER'S IN THE OVEN, BURNED PROBABLY...

B-BUT YOUR SOCIETY MEETING WAS LAST NIGHT, I'M SURE, DEAR.



I SHOULD STAND UP TO HER AND SHOW I'M MASTER IN MY OWN HOUSE! HUH! EVERY TIME I TRY TO, I JUST FALL TO PIECES IN FRONT OF HER, THE SCAREY OLD BAT!



THAT WAS THE HOUSEHOLDERS' COMMITTEE AT PG 3. THIS IS DIFFERENT ALTOGETHER, AT WIDOW TENNISON'S NOW OUT OF MY WAY... AND DON'T READ TO MUCH, IT'S BAD FOR YOUR EYES!



Y-YES DEAR...

WELL...NOT EVERY TIME. AND PERHAPS NOT TONIGHT..!



IT WAS ONLY THE FLICKER OF AN IDEA, A GAME THAT WAS PLAYING ITSELF IN JORDAN'S MIND. BUT IT WOULD BE FUN TO FIND OUT JUST HOW THE GAME MIGHT END...

AND WHO THE WINNER WOULD BE...



IT WAS A LONG WAY TO WIDOW TENNISON'S BERNERS IF IT HAD BEEN SHORTER HE'D NEVER HAVE CAUGHT UP WITH HER.



WHY THERE ARE NEVER ANY BLASTED CABS WHEN YOU REALLY NEED THEM...

NOR ANY POLICEMEN EITHER...



EEEEEEEE



LAST TIME YOU BOSS ME AROUND, YOU OLD CROWLY-YOU AND YOUR STUPID COMMITTEE-CONSCIOUS MIND! L-LAST TIME... L-LAST...

IT WAS OVER IN NO TIME, THEN HE WAS HOME, HIS HEART A LUMP IN HIS THROAT, HIS CHEST ON FIRE...

ALL HE HAD TO DO NOW IS WAIT FOR THE PHONE CALL...

...AND THE KNOCK AT THE DOOR...



I--I DID IT! I REALLY DID IT! FOR ONCE I STOOD UP TO HER AND SHOWED HER I'M CAPABLE OF PLANNING AND DOING SOMETHING FOR MYSELF!

OH, I SHOWED HER THAT ALL RIGHT...



YES, MRS. TENNISON? NO, SHE LEFT WELL OVER AN HOUR AGO. I THOUGHT SHE WAS GOING TO YOUR MEETING, TOO, HOW STRANGE...



AH, DOCTOR JORDAN, WE'VE GOT SOME BAD NEWS, I'M AFRAID ABOUT YOUR WIFE.

ABOUT DEAR WHART? WHAT ON EARTH HAS HAPPENED?





IT FELT SO GOOD AGAIN, TO BE WORKING WITH HUMAN TISSUES AND MUSCLE, TO FEEL HIS KNIFE SLIDE THROUGH SIN-
EW AND GRISTLE, LYING BARE THE BONES OF HIS DEAR, DEPARTED WIFE...



HE IS CONTENT NOW. HE IS A MAN WHO HAS DONE A REWARDING DAY'S WORK AND WHO HAS RETURNED TO A HOME INFINITELY SWEETER THAN IT USED TO BE...

GOODNIGHT, MARTHA. MY DEAR, SLEEP WELL IN YOUR REFRIGERATED CUBICLE, WON'T YOU? YOU'LL BE WARMER THERE THAN YOU EVER WERE TOWARDS ME IN THIS BED, I AM SURE.

HE DREAMED PLEASANT DREAMS THAT NIGHT...



AND WORKED WITH THE GERM OF AN
IDEA BEGINNING TO FERTILIZE
IN HIS MIND...

WHY WHY NOT? IT COULD
BE DONE. IT WAS SO EASY
THE FIRST TIME AND WORK-
ING ON THE BODY AFTER-
WARDS MAKES THE DANGER,
THE RISK, WORTHWHILE.

ANOTHER
MURDER, MAYBE
TWO, JUST WHAT
MY BUSINESS
NEEDS! YES
INDEED!

HE WOULD NEVER HAVE CALLED
HIMSELF AN EVIL MAN, BUT
LIVING SO LONG WITH THE HARSH,
BARKING VOICE OF HIS WIFE HAD
DRIVEN HIM TO THE EDGE OF
HIS TOLERANCE...

AND ONCE YOU'VE
STERPED OFF THAT
EDGE IT'S EASY TO
LET YOURSELF FALL
FURTHER AND
FURTHER INTO THE
PIT...!



GOOD AND EVIL NEVER REALLY
ENTERED INTO IT. IT WAS JUST
A MATTER OF DEATH...!



AND A BOOMING BUSINESS FOR DOCTOR LEWIS JORDAN...

ANOTHER BODY, DOCTOR! SUSPICIOUS THAT, SO SOON AFTER YOUR OWN WIFE'S... BRR... UNFORTUNATE END, LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT BE THE SAME CHARACTER...!

YES, SEVERAL WOUNDS, I BELIEVE...!

YES, SEVERAL
WOUNDS, I
BELIEVE...

MY WORD,
WHO'D HAVE
THOUGHT IT SHE
HAD CANCER. SHE
PROBABLY DIDN'T
KNOW IT BUT IT,
WOULD HAVE BEEN
JUST A MATTER
OF TIME.

IF YOU'D LISTENED THEN, LEWIS JORDAN, PERHAPS YOU'D HAVE DETECTED A NEW RING OF MADNESS IN YOUR LAUGHTER.

A MADNESS THAT PUTS A
KNIFE IN YOUR HAND AND
TAKES YOU OUT INTO THE
STREETS AGAIN AND AGAIN.



PERHAPS IF YOU'D SEEN THAT SMALL SEED OF
INSANITY THEN YOU COULD HAVE STOPPED IT
BEFORE IT WAS TOO LATE.



BUT WHAT A
TALE YOU COULD
TELL, MY BEAUTIES.
YOU KNOW MY
SECRET, DON'T YOU
...BUT HOW CAN YOU
ACCUSE A MAN WHO
HAS CUT OUT YOUR
TONGUES AS
PART OF THE
GAME, EH?

IT REALLY IS
QUITE AN IMPRESSIVE
TALLY, SIX IN AS
MANY WEEKS.



AND NOT
ONCE HAVE I
COME CLOSE
TO BEING
CAUGHT!



I WIN, I
THINK!

BUT EVERY GAME HAS A TURNING POINT.
DOCTOR, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT. IF YOU
DIDN'T BEFORE, YOU DO NOW!



POLICE! HELP
POLICE! IT'S HIM
...IT'S HIM!

DAWN! SHE WAS
STRONGER THAN I
EXPECTED! I WAS
TOO SURE OF
MYSELF... TOO COOKY!





A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE

LOOK, I GOTTA WORK YA RIGHT
UP FRONT, THIS AIN'T A PRETTY
STORY--

--BUT THEN, THERE AIN'T NOthin' ALL THAT PRETTY
ABOUT A WORLD FULL'A TWISTED TREES, CRUMBLIN'
RUINS, AND BIG BLACK BOMBED-OUT CRATERS!

THEM THAT DIED DURIN'
THE ATTACK IS PROB'LY
THE LUCKY ONES, I
GUESS--'CAUSE THE REST
OF US HAVE TA GO ON LIVIN'...

...ANYWAY
WE CAN!

OH, ON THE OFF-CHANCE, YER WONDERIN'
--MY NAME IS MOGGIN'! I RAN ME A
LITTLE HEALTH FOOD STORE IN LAGUNA
BEACH BEFORE THEY STARTED
DROPPIN' THE BIG ONES!

AND NOW--?

WELL, LIKE I SAID--YA
LIVE HOWEVER YA CAN!

FACT IS, I
SPEND MOSTA
MY TIME
LOOKIN' FER
FOOD!

HEY--SOMETHIN'S
MOVIN'!

A TATERPILLAR
--AN' A NICE BIG
HEALTHY ONE!

YEAH, LITTLE
BELLY--WE'RE
GONNA EAT LIKE
KINGS T'NIGHT!

IT'S PLENTY DAMNED HARD TA
COME BY--AN' THERE AIN'T
NOTHIN' ELSE TA DO ANYWAYS!

SHOCK!

DAMN! NOW WHERE'D
HE COME FROM?

WELL, SORRY,
BIRD--BUT THAT
BUG'S MINE!

--A LOT'A
CRAP!

ALL THAT CRAP BOUT
THE EARLY BIRD
GETTIN' THE WORM IS
JUST THAT--

GOT 'IM?

OVER THE LIPS AN'
PAST THE GUMS...

LOOK OUT,
STOMACH--
HERE IT
COMES!

TOO BAD ABOUT
THE BIRD--

--BUT THE GOD-
DAMNED THING
WAS PROBABLY
ALL DISEASED
ANYWAY!

FOR THE RECORD, THE NIGHT IS
EVEN WORSEN THE DAY 'ROUND
HERE--IF THAT'S POSSIBLE!

YA SORT'A GOTTA LEARN TA
SLEEP WITH BOTH EYES
OPEN--AY A GOOD SHARP
POINTY STICK CLUTCHED IN
YER HAND!



YA NEVER KNOW WHAT MIGHT BE
SHUFFLIN' AROUND OUT THERE IN
THE DARK!

ALL KINDS OF SCREWY CREATURES
STARTED SPRINGIN' UP AFTER THE
WAR --



--AN' NONE OF 'EM
WAS FRIENDLY!

HE'S A CANNIBAL, AL RIGHT--JUST
LIKE ALL THE OTHERS!

ALL THE
OTHERS,
THAT IS--
'CEPT
ME!

HE'S BEHIND ME
NOW--HIS BREATH
LIKE A STAGNANT
SEWER!



OH I'LL KILL QUICK
ENUFF--IF I HAVE
TA--BUT I WON'T
EAT 'EM AFTER-
WARD...

NO MATTER
WHAT!

AFTER OWNNIN' A
HEALTH FOOD
STORE, I JUST
CAN'T DO IT!



IT'S A MATTER
OF PRINCIPLE!

IT'S DEAD--FINALLY
STOPPED TWITCHIN'!

NOW ALL I GOTTA DO IS
HUNKER DOWN AN'
WAIT...



...WHICH GETS TA BE
A PAIN IN THE BUTT
AFTER A WHILE...

BUT IN THE END, IT'S
ALL WORTH IT!



A 'SKEETER--AN'
ABOUT TIME!



GUESS THE CORPSE IS
FINALLY RIPE ENUFF
FOR HER...

IT WON'T
TAKE HER
LONG TA
LAY HER
EGGS!



'SKEETER'S GONE...
SHOULDN'T BE LONG
NOW

...AN' HERE
THEY COME!



THEY GRUBS
AN' WORMS
JUST LOVE
THE TASTE A
'SKEETER
EGGS...

...AN' I
JUST LOVE
THE TASTE A
GRUBS AN'
WORMS!



'SPECIALLY, SEEBIN AS HOW
THERE AIN'T NOthin'
ELSE I CAN EAT!

ME AN' MY DAMN
PRINCIPLES!

STILL, I WOULDN'T HAVE
IT NO OTHER WAY.

I'D RATHER DIG IN THE
DIRT FER BUGS LIKE
SOME SPARROW THAN
PICK THE BONES OF A
MAN LIKE SOME GOD-
DAMN VULTURE!



LEAST THAT WAY I
CAN STILL CALL MY-
SELF SOMETHIN' AKIN
TA HUMAN--!



JEEZUS! NOW WHAT?

I DIDN'T KNOW
BETTER, I'D SWEAR
THAT SOUNDED
LIKE A WOMAN!



BUT THERE AIN'T BEEN
NO WIMMIN' 'ROUND
THESE PARTS FOR
MORE MONTHS THAN
I WANNA REMEMBER!



WELL, WHATEVER
IT IS, IT'S JUST ON
THE OTHER SIDE'A
THESE RUINS!



I CAN SMELL A FIRE BURNIN'
--AN' I HEAR VOICES!



LOOK, MEAT--
ALL THIS FIGHTIN'
AIN'T GONNA HELP
YA NONE!

ONE WAY OR THE
OTHER, YER GOIN'
ONTA THAT SPIT!



NO!
PLEASE--
NO!!

GOD, IT IS A
WOMAN--



--AN' A HEALTHY
ONE FROM THE
LOOK'A HER!



PLEASE--DON'T DO THIS!
YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU
WANT WITH ME --

--ANYTHING
BUT THAT!



C'MON, MEAT--
YOU KNOW
BETTER!



SINCE THE FALL--
OUT, AIN'T A MAN BEEN
ABLE 'A DO ANYTHIN'
WITH A WOMAN--

--'CEPT
BARBEQUE
HER!

FACE IT,
MEAT--BOUT ALL
YER GOOD FER
IS DINNER!



FIRE'S FINALLY
NOT ENOUGH!
BETTER GET HER
READY!



OUR FATHER WHO
ART IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE
THY NAME...



SORRY,
MEAT--BUT
PRAYIN' WON'T
HELP YA
EITHER!



DIDNT HELP
NONE'A THE REST
OF US, DID IT?



SOTTA DO
SOMETHIN'!
CAN'T LET
THEM MEAT-
EATIN'
MUTHANS
WASTE HER!

HEY--
WHO--?



WHO AIN'T IMPORTANT NOW, SCUM-SUCKER! AIN'T
NOTHIN' IMPORTANT NOW--

--'CEPT THE GIRL!

G'WAN, YA CRAZY MUD-CRAWLER
--GET OUTTA HERE!

WE AIN'T LETTIN' NOBODY
STEAL OUR SUPPER!

SEEMS TA ME YA AIN'T GOT MUCH CHOICE, SCUM--

--NO CHOICE
AT ALL!

JEEZUS, I'M TOO LATE! THEM
NARROW-SUCKIN' MANIACS
MURDERED HER-- BASHED THE
SIDEA HER PRETTY HEAD IN!

AIN'T NOTHIN' I CAN DO FER
HER NOW-- BUT I CAN'T LET
HER JUST LIE HERE!

I'LL TAKE HER WITH
ME--

--TO A CERTAIN
LITTLE SPOT I
KNOW!

THE WAIT MAY
BE A LONG
ONE--

--BUT IN THE
END, IT'LL ALL
BE WORTH IT!

IT'S ALL A
MATTER OF
PRINCIPLE!

END

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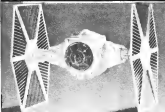
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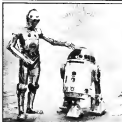


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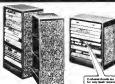
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